

**NIGERIA-UNITED STATES BI-NATIONAL COMMISSION**  
**NIGER DELTA WORKING GROUP**  
**HELD AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE**  
**PORT HARCOURT, RIVERS STATE**  
**16<sup>TH</sup> – 17<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER, 2012**

**JOINT COMMUNIQUE**

The Working Group on the Niger Delta of the Nigeria-United States Bi-National Commission met in Port Harcourt, Nigeria from October 16<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>, 2012. The meeting was co-chaired by the Permanent Secretary of the Nigerian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Martin Uhomoibhi, and the United States Department of State, Deputy Assistant Secretary for African Affairs, Ms Cynthia Akuetteh.

The Nigerian delegation included the Governors of Rivers, Cross River, Delta, and Edo states, the Deputy Governor of Akwa Ibom State and the representative of the Bayelsa State Government; members of the Nigerian National Assembly; the Office of the National Security Advisor; and officials from Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Petroleum Resources, Niger Delta Affairs, Environment, the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC), Defence, Headquarters, and Office of the Special Adviser to the President on Niger Delta Affairs. The U.S. delegation included officials from the Department of State, United States Africa Command, Department of Energy, United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and the U.S. Coast Guard. The Working Group discussions also included participants from the private sector and Nigerian civil society organizations.

Recognizing the importance of fostering lasting peace and stability in the Niger Delta, the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the United States Government reaffirmed their commitment to the promotion of employment opportunities for all stakeholders in the region; and to undertake projects and policies that will promote economic growth, especially in the agricultural sector, environmental protection, transparency and accountability, interagency collaboration, and security in the Niger Delta region.

Both countries recognize the importance of development efforts that include civil society, the private sector, and State and Local governments in order to achieve lasting economic growth and peace in the Niger Delta. To this end, the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria will continue to take steps to implement developmental programmes and transparency initiatives related to projects in the Niger Delta, and provide citizens access to information on the procurement process of projects in the region including the non-oil sector. The United States Government will support this

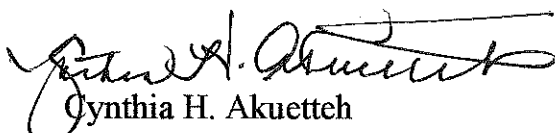
effort and in addition pursue projects that enhance public health in the Niger Delta, particularly in the area of prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS through the United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR).

The United States Government supports the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria's desire for increased private investment in the Niger Delta, recognizing that an improved business climate will generate private sector growth in the non-oil industries. The Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria will prioritize productive infrastructure investment and continue to work to reduce barriers to business growth. For its part, the United States government will continue to pursue public private partnerships (PPP) through the United States Agency for International Development, promote access to agriculture markets and enhance food security in the Niger Delta through Feed the Future Programme Initiative.

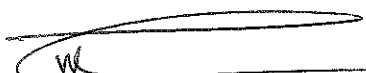
Both countries agreed on the importance of environmental safety, security and sustainability for the future of the Niger Delta. To this end, the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria will take steps to coordinate and collaborate with stakeholders in its response to environmental disasters with State governments in the affected areas, and agree to implement the recommendations of the United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP) Report. To reduce the negative impact of gas flaring in the Niger Delta, the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria is committed to regulatory adjustments to incentivize investment in gas pipelines and processing infrastructure, including moving towards a market-based price regime for natural gas.

Recognizing the important role Nigeria plays in maritime security in the Gulf of Guinea, the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria reaffirmed its commitment to delineate roles and responsibilities among the various maritime security agencies, and to support and actively shape an effective Economic Zone (E Zone) that strengthens regional communication and cooperation in response to maritime attacks in the Gulf of Guinea. The United States Government remains committed to supporting regional maritime security in the Gulf of Guinea, and will promote regional maritime security capacity, through ECOWAS initiatives.

Both countries paid tribute to the host Governor His Excellency Rt. Hon Rotimi Amaechi and the people of Rivers State for hosting this historic meeting, the first of its kind outside of our respective capitals, and for Rivers State's generous warmth and hospitality.

  
Cynthia H. Aduetteh  
Deputy Assistant Secretary for  
African Affairs  
United States Department of State

17 October, 2012

  
Ambassador Martin Uhomoibhi  
Permanent Secretary  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Federal Republic of Nigeria

17th October, 2012